

## EUROPE TO FIGHT CANAL TOLL ACT

Combines Plans to Enforce U. S. to Give Equal Treatment to Its Ships.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A formidable European combination designed to force the United States to give equal treatment to all nations with respect to the use of the Panama canal may be effected if this government declines to comply with the British demand to arbitrate the toll question.

This same combination also may be employed in an attempt to prevent the enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law against international financial, industrial and shipping enterprises.

It is understood that all the continental European governments and Japan are in full sympathy with the British protest, both in its opposition to discrimination in the matter of tolls in favor of American coastwise shipping and in the objection to the provision of the Panama canal law prohibiting railroad and trust-owned ships from passing through the canal.

It is but a step, of course, from opposition to the embargo placed upon railroad and trust-owned ships to opposition to American attack upon foreign commercial trusts generally.

Only recently this government was forced to back down from an untenable position with respect to the coffee valorization trust of Brazil. Chile has a nitrate trust. The American beef trust is operating in Argentina.

Germany is engaged in the creation of an oil monopoly, the avowed purpose of which is to drive the Standard Oil company out of the German empire. That government also has a potash trust and objects to American proceedings against its combines, partly on account that American courts might require the dissolution of a trust when such dissolution would be punishable under the German law.

The French, Italian and Austrian governments are administering their tobacco monopolies without reference to the procedure of this government. Great Britain is watching with close interest the developments in the pending suit against the trans-Atlantic steamship lines.

It is understood an exchange of views has taken place among European nations with reference to the anti-trust activity of the United States. So far as known they have not formulated any definite policy in the way of reprisal, but that something of the kind will be done if this government continues to enforce the Sherman law against international combinations is not questioned.

The first step will be taken by Great Britain. In the note respecting the Panama canal, submitted by the British ambassador to the state department a few days ago, Sir Edward Grey, the British minister for foreign affairs, stated he did not regard the action of the Panama canal law prohibiting railroad-owned or trust-owned ships from using the canal as applying to or affecting British ships.

If this view were incorrect, however, he said the British government "must reserve its right to examine the matter further and to raise such contentions as may seem justified."

The Canadian transcontinental lines own ocean-going ships, and would be hit just as the American transcontinental lines are, if this provision of the law is enforced against them. It is to their interest, as it is to the interest of the American railroads, to have this section repealed.

They also naturally want American coastwise shipping to pay tolls and thus be deprived of an advantage which in all probability will affect transcontinental rates. There are also a large number of American trusts which own ships, as do foreign trusts.

It is accepted as a fact that the financiers operating the railroads and trusts have been in communication with each other, and the result is a general program contemplating the application of pressure upon European governments

to induce them to protest against the procedure of the United States.

The Panama canal questions, in all probability, will lead to protracted negotiations not only in reference to tolls and ship combinations, but with regard to international treatment of international trusts.

### A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

Dramatic Climax to a Trial in a French Court.

Coincidence—chance—plays a tremendous part in human history. Fate is another name for the same thing; so is luck. All these words are merely curiously euphemisms for X, the unknown quantity.

Not a day passes but the story of a remarkable coincidence is brought to public notice. A stranger incident never occurred, however, than this one, the account of which is in an old copy of the *Chronique de Paris*.

A youth of about nineteen was brought to trial for having broken the window of a baker's shop and stolen a two pound loaf.

The Judge—Why did you steal the loaf?

Prisoner—I was driven by hunger.

"Why did you not buy it?"

"Because I had no money."

"But you have a gold ring on your finger. Why didn't you sell it?"

"I am a foundling. When I was taken from the bank of a ditch this ring was suspended from my neck by a silken cord, and I kept it in the hope of thereby discovering at least who were my parents. I cannot dispose of it."

The procurer du roi (king's attorney) made a violent speech against the prisoner, who was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for five years. Immediately upon this a woman more worn down by poverty than age came forward and made the following declaration:

"Gentlemen of the jury, twenty years ago a young woman was married to a young man of the same town, who afterward abandoned her. Poor and distressed, she was obliged to leave her child to the care of Providence. The child has since grown up, and the woman and the husband have grown old; the child in poverty, the woman in misery and her husband in prosperity. They are all three now in court. The child is the unfortunate prisoner whom you have just pronounced guilty, the mother is myself, and there sits the father," pointing to the king's attorney.

### VARIETY OF THE BIBLE.

Vivid Descriptions, History and Stories of Adventure.

One of the striking things about the Bible as a single piece of literature is the variety of its literary forms, sufficient, indeed, to appeal to the most widely different tastes. There are excellent examples of the short story all through the historical books, such as the absorbingly interesting account of Joseph sold into slavery and afterward elevated to a position next to Pharaoh himself and the intensely realistic story of Paul's shipwreck, which, were it not too well written, might be an extract from some book of adventure.

The books of which many of these short stories form a part constitute a body of most intimate and fascinating tribal and national history. Wedged in between two of the historical books we find the story of Ruth, a "prose idyll," as delightful as any of which profane literature can boast. The Book of Esther, though not in form a drama, has a plot of dramatic power, in which Haman, who is raised to triumphant satisfaction at the thought of hanging Mordecai upon the gallows, becomes himself the victim of his own vengeance.

At the end stands that wonderful Apocalypse, which is at once an inspiration and a mystery, full of beauty and rich cadences. Interspersed among all the narratives are delightfully suggestive descriptions, sometimes presenting to us the simple life of the shepherd, again the luxurious surroundings of Absalom's court. It is not strange, therefore, that the Bible makes a strong intellectual appeal to lovers of literature and to men of untrained tastes.—Edgar F. Shannon in *Sewanee Review*.

### See Gypsies.

In the archipelago of Mergul, off the



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We have a beautiful line of baroque pearl rings, all original designs. Also dinner knuckle rings set in diamonds and other precious stones.

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If no member of your family has ever used Syrup Pepsin and you would like to make a personal trial of it before buying it in the regular way of a druggist, send your address—a postal will do—to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 413 Washington street, Monticello, Ill., and a free sample bottle will be mailed you. Results are always guaranteed or money will be refunded.—(Adv.)

coast of lower Burma. live the "sea gypsies." Instead of carts they own covered boats, in which, with their families, dogs, cats, chickens and pigs, they float about on the sea and wander from island to island. By day they fish or harpoon turtles or dive for pearls, and at night they seek the shelter of the land. Only in very bad weather do they seek employment on shore. They seem to have solved the housing problem in a manner perfectly satisfactory to themselves and pay no rent or rates to any man.—New York Press.

### Some Satisfaction.

The Hon. Mrs. Robert Hamilton in her biography of her father, the late Lord Wolverhampton, says that in his home his orders were always stern and peremptory, but no one was more surprised than he was when they were obeyed.

One day he detected one of his daughters making a statement in which she rather exaggerated the facts.

"You are one of the most inaccurate women that was ever created," he told her.

"Well," was the cheerful reply. "I am glad to be a masterpiece in some department of creation."

### So Inquisitive.

Mamma (after her youngest's first day at school)—Now, Fritz, what did you do in school today? Fritz—Well, such curious people! First the teacher asks me what we did at home, and now you come and ask what we have done in school!—*Fliegende Blätter*.

### A Boomerang.

Mrs. Hiram Offen—I'm afraid you won't do. As nearly as I can find out you have worked in six or seven places during the past year. Miss Brady—Well, an' how many girls has yerself had in the same toime? No, less, I'm thinkin'.—*Boston Transcript*.

### Reckless Dissipation.

His Mother—Hiram, ain't you 'shamed o' yourself settin' up till half past 8 playin' solitaire? What you get your taste for gamblin' I don't know.—*Life*.

No man can do nothing, and no man can do everything.—German Proverb.

### CITY COURT LAW IS UPHELD

Illinois Supreme Bench Refuses to Set Aside Old Decision.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 13.—The state supreme court refused to set aside a decision in a case in which the validity of the Chicago municipal court act was attacked. In so doing, the court sustained its own decision and held the act valid. The first decision was

delivered several years ago in the case of Chicago against Edwin Logan Reeves. The supreme court took the position that when an act had been declared valid the same question could not be raised again by the same litigants. C. B. Czarnecki of Chicago had asked the court to set aside the old decision.

Omaha—Everett White, 17 years old, surrendered himself and told the police

he had been charged with killing Charles Lowe, a jockey, in a brawl at Catlettsburg, Ky. He said also he had been sentenced to a reform school at Greendale, Ky., but had escaped. He expects to get a new trial.

Jacksonville, Fla.—To prevent congestion of northern fruit markets and a corresponding lowering of prices, W. C. Temple, manager of the Florida Cit-

rus exchange, instructed all members to stop shipping fruit between Dec. 18 and 30.

The peculiar properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy have been thoroughly tested during epidemics of influenza, and when it was taken in time we have not heard of a single case of pneumonia. Sold by all druggists.—(Advertisement.)

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